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**Important
Project Update
Information
Inside!**



Department of Highways
District 8
P.O. Box 780
Somerset, KY 42502
Phone: (606) 677-4017

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Newsletter

PUBLIC MEETINGS REGARDING THE PROPOSED I-66 INTERSTATE FROM SOMERSET TO LONDON



WHEN: Tuesday, July 22nd, 2003 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: The London Community Center
529 South Main Street
London, KY 40741

WHY: For the public to review and comment on the 1000' wide bands that have been recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee for further study as potential locations for future I-66 alignments.

WHEN: Thursday, July 24th, 2003 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.

WHERE: The Center for Rural Development
2292 South Highway 27
Somerset, KY 42501

WHY: For the public to review and comment on the 1000' wide bands that have been recommended by the Citizens Advisory Committee for further study as potential locations for future I-66 alignments.

The Transportation Cabinet, Department of Highways has scheduled two Public Information Meetings to give all interested persons an opportunity to become better informed and to express their views concerning the I-66 project.

These particular meetings will focus on the I-66 portion proposed to extend from KY 80 east of Somerset to I-75 near London, Kentucky.

Exhibits will be available for viewing and the meetings will be conducted in an "Open House" format. Attendees will be able to view the bands recommended for further study by the Citizens Advisory Committee. Attendees may come and go anytime between 5:00 P.M. and 8:00 P.M.

Your attendance and participation in these meetings is encouraged, welcomed and essential. Members of the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will be present to answer questions.

This ad will run in the following papers:

Lexington Herald-Leader July 13

Louisville Courier Journal July 13

The Commonwealth Journal June 29
July 6
July 13
July 23

Pulaski, Somerset News Journal July 3
July 10
July 17

London Sentinel-Echo July 2
July 9
July 16

London-Laurel News Journal July 2
July 9
July 16

The Corbin Times June 30
July 7
July 14

This notice ran in the Federal Register on Monday, April 29, 2002.

Federal Register / Vol. 67, No. 82 / Monday, April 29, 2002 / Notices

21013



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Highway Administration

Environmental Impact Statement; Pulaski and Laurel Counties, KY

AGENCY: Federal Highway
Administration (FHWA), DOT.
ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public of its intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed highway project in the south-central portion of Kentucky, between the proposed Somerset Northern Bypass and London. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Evan Wisniewski, Project Development Team Leader, Federal Highway Administration, 300 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, (502) 223-6740, e-mail: evan.wisniewski@fhwa.dot.gov; or David Beattie, Project Manager, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, District 8, P.O. Box 780, Somerset, Kentucky, 42501, (606) 677-4017, e-mail: David.Beattie@mail.state.ky.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Electronic Access

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded by using a computer, modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the Office of the Federal Register's home page at <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's Web page at <http://www.access.gpo.gov.nara>.

Background

The FHWA, in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project to study potential transportation improvements in the northern corridor identified in the *I-66 Southern*

Kentucky Corridor Scoping Study, completed in June 2000. This corridor is located in the south-central portion of Kentucky, between Somerset in Pulaski County and London in Laurel County.

As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, FHWA will be preparing an EIS to assess the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the proposed project. The EIS will include a reasonable range of alternatives that will address the purpose and need of the project as well as a no-build alternative.

A Public Involvement Plan, including the development of a Citizens Committee, will be established and will facilitate public involvement throughout the project development process. The resource agencies will be solicited for their input throughout the life of this project. Throughout the development process, advance notice of the time and place of public meetings and/or hearings will be given in order to provide an opportunity for citizen attendance and comments.

The Transamerica Transportation Corridor (I-66) was defined in an *Interstate 66 Feasibility Study*. This study focused on the feasibility of various alternative transportation concepts. The report recognized that further analyses could find that some individual segments of the Transamerica Transportation Corridor would be more feasible than others and would be more desirable from a state or regional perspective. The *Interstate 66 Feasibility Study* was funded through the 1991 U.S. Department of Transportation Appropriation Act.

The Transamerica Transportation Corridor extended from the East Coast to the West Coast, and was generally located between I-70 and I-40. It included a "Southern Kentucky Corridor" centered on the cities of Pikeville, Jenkins, Hazard, London, Somerset, Columbia, Bowling Green, Hopkinsville, Benton and Paducah.

The *Southern Kentucky Corridor, Economic Justification & Financial Feasibility Study, May 1997*, followed the *Interstate 66 Feasibility Study*. This study included public participation through an advisory committee, public meetings, press releases, and newsletters sent to all parties who expressed an interest in the Southern Kentucky Corridor. The study identified the Somerset to London segment (connecting the Louie B. Nunn Parkway with the Daniel Boone Parkway) of the proposed I-66 Southern Kentucky Corridor as a priority segment.

In June 2000, the *I-66 Southern Kentucky Corridor Scoping Study* (Pulaski-Laurel Counties) was completed. It developed an

environmental footprint, gathered resource agency and public input, and identified areas of concern, as well as the potential benefits of such an undertaking within the Southern Kentucky Corridor.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies, and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held throughout the design process. In addition a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing. A formal scoping meeting with resource agencies will be planned for late spring 2002. Resource agencies will be notified 30 days prior to the meeting date.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed project are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed project and EIS should be directed to the FHWA at the address provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program)

(23 U.S.C. 315; 49 CFR 1.48)

Issued on: April 22, 2002.

Evan J. Wisniewski,

Acting Kentucky Division Administrator.

[FR Doc. 02-10410 Filed 4-26-02; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-22-M

**A version of
this notice ran
as advertising
in newspapers
during
May 2002.**

I-66 CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP

The I-66 Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) consists of 20 persons, with representatives from both Somerset and London and a wide variety of interests. The group is organized into four subcommittees, each of which represents one of four major segments of interest within the community. The four subcommittees are Tourism/Economic Development; Communities; Environmental/Aesthetic; and Business. A brief synopsis of the importance of each subcommittee area of interest and the members of each subcommittee are as follows:

Chairperson: Edwin Jones

Co-Chairperson: Mark McCowan

TOURISM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Clay McKnight**
London
- **Ken Harvey**
London-Laurel County Tourism Commission
London
- **Bennie Garland**
So. Ky RECC - Community Development Specialist
Russell Springs
- **Greg Jones**
Southern Kentucky Economic Development Corp.
Somerset
- **Ned Sheehy**
Executive Director - KY Motor Transport Association
Frankfort
- **Dan Byers**
Support Member from Consulting Team

ENVIRONMENT/AESTHETIC

- **Malvery Begley**
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth
London
- **Paul R. Feltner II**
London
- **Thomas Kean**
U.S. Forest Service
Somerset
- **Jeff Wiles**
Somerset
- **Patrick Angel**
Office of Surface Mining
London
- **Julie Flesch-Pate**
Support Member from Consulting Team

COMMUNITIES

- **Jim Costanzo**
Somerset
- **Lelan Wilson**
London
- **Verne J. Wright**
Somerset
- **Charles David Hawk**
Somerset
- **Mark McCowan**
Highlands Diversified Services
London
- **John Sacksteder**
Support Member from Consulting Team

BUSINESS

- **Carey Koplowitz**
London
- **Donald Bloomer**
Vice-President - Somerset-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce
Somerset
- **Russell Bastin**
Somerset
- **Lawrence Kuhl**
County Judge-Executive, Laurel County
London
- **Edwin Jones**
London
- **Brian Cash**
Support Member from Consulting Team

The CAG has met a total of six times over the past several months to work with the project team in the development of "bands", within which the new I-66 alignments will be located, for further environmental study. A large part of the effort was to define issues of concern for the community by which to measure impacts of the new I-66 bands. Each subcommittee developed an initial list of issues which was validated by a survey form mailed to over 11,000 persons in the corridor. Those same persons were later asked to weight the final list of issues in relative order of importance. Measurement criteria were then developed by the CAG and project team with which to measure the impacts of the project bands relative to the final list of issues. At the sixth meeting, the CAG evaluated and selected three bands each within Pulaski and Laurel Counties to carry forward into more intensive environmental study which will begin in June, 2003.

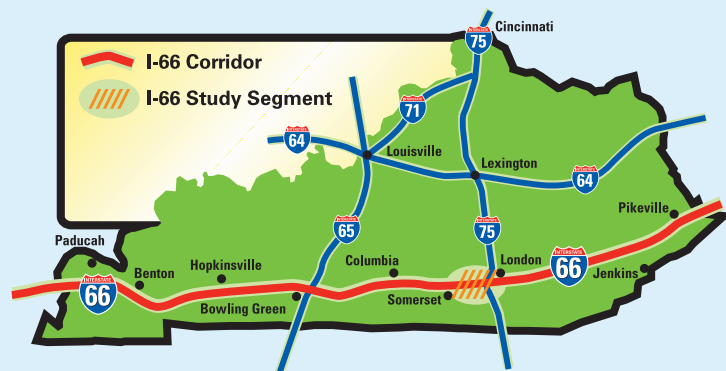
Project History

Interstate 66 (I-66) will eventually cross the nation, coast to coast. In Kentucky, I-66 will stretch from Pikeville to Paducah. The critical portion of I-66 - between Corbin and Somerset - was designated a "high priority" on the National Highway System by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) in 1991.

As a result of ISTEA legislation, a national East-West corridor feasibility study was conducted and concluded that the entire coast-to-coast corridor did not meet the economic feasibility criteria. However, it was also determined that further analysis could find some corridor segments to be feasible from a state or regional perspective.

In 1997, The University of Kentucky Transportation Center conducted a study for KYTC that concluded the Southern Kentucky Corridor of I-66 was feasible. This study identified the Somerset to London segment as a priority segment. Based on the results of this study, funding for the continued development of a Somerset to London corridor was established through the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

As with previous conclusions, TEA-21 identified Somerset to London as a high priority corridor within the feasible portion of I-66. A planning study comparing alternate corridors between the two cities was completed in 2000.



Current Scope of Project

Phase 1A is currently being completed and the results will be shown to the public in the two meetings shown on the cover of this newsletter. During this phase, an environmental overview was completed for the northern corridor. This corridor, as generally identified in the 2000 planning document, was established as an approximately 5 mile wide area surrounding existing KY 80 from the east side of Somerset to a point east of the Rockcastle river and turns southeastward to I-75 south of London. Through a series of six Citizen's Committee meetings, and in conjunction with two public mailings, factors were developed by the Committee that resulted in three approximately 1000' wide bands that will have more detailed design and environmental investigation. Also included in the conclusion is an allowance for a decision of "Do Nothing". Environmental staff is initiating the detailed field investigation of these bands immediately and will be requesting access to key properties to perform their work. All will be carrying identifying letters. We appreciate your cooperation with these personnel.

The current environmental and design activities are referenced as Phase 1-B, which will culminate in an Environmental Impact Statement and finally in a Record of Decision in the Federal Register. This phase will take approximately two years to be developed. More public meetings and a public hearing will be held during this period as appropriate information or stages of the project are completed. The public will be kept abreast of the project development by regular updates of the Department's web page and through additional newsletters. Joe Cox, the Kentucky Department of Highways' Project Manager, may also be contacted at any time for current activities.

KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Notice

Construction of I-66 from Somerset to London

8-59.1



The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is preparing to undertake an important series of investigations and analyses required by the National Historic Preservation Act for this project. Those activities will include (1) the identification of any historic properties in the project area, and (2) the development of mitigation measures to reduce any harmful effects. The views of the public are essential to this process --- and to an informed decision on the ultimate project outcome. Thus, over the coming months, KYTC will be making information available to the public on historic resource issues related to the project. KYTC will also be soliciting feedback from the public on the information and analyses we have presented. Please monitor the newspaper and other project information sources for information on the ongoing historic preservation review process. In addition, if you are aware of any information that you believe we should consider in this process, please provide it to the address listed below.

Some individuals and organizations also may be entitled to participate more actively in this process as "consulting parties". This would entitle them to receive specific types of information, provide comments, and consult with KYTC concerning potential mitigation measures to reduce the adverse effects of the project on historic properties. Participation as a "consulting party" may stem from a party's legal or economic relation to the project or a particular historic property, or from the party's concern with the project's effects on historic properties. If you believe that you might be entitled to participate as a "consulting party" for this project, please send a letter to the address listed below and identify the reasons why you believe you should be granted "consulting party" status no later than August 15, 2003. Finally, whether or not you participate as a "consulting party", we look forward to working with you and other members of the public to ensure that we take into account the effects of this project on our valuable historic resources.

**Commonwealth of Kentucky
Transportation Cabinet
Department of Highways, District 8
1660 S. Hwy 27, P.O. Box 780
Somerset, KY 42502**

**Attention: Cathi Blair
I-66 Project**

I-66 STUDY CORRIDOR SOMERSET TO LONDON (PULASKI-LAUREL COUNTIES) CITIZENS COMMITTEE BAND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Possible Interchange Locations
- Pulaski Section Recommendations**
Do Nothing, Band B, Band D, Band KY 80
- Laurel Sections 1 & 2 Recommendations**
Do Nothing, Band G, Band H, Band I

